



2017 FFLA Board Meeting

Statesboro, GA

The 2017 Board Meeting was called to order at 1102 a.m., January 14, at the Georgia Forestry Commission office in Statesboro, GA.

Chairman Argow asked for a motion for the approval of the minutes from the 2016 Board Meeting and the Western Conference minutes that had been distributed by email. That motion was approved.

A roll call was taken; Present in Statesboro: Chairman Keith Argow, Treasurer/N.ID-MT Gary Weber, Secretary/NJ co Ray Grimes Jr., SC-GA Mike Finch, AL rep Andy Zerbe, Present on the conference call: Dep Ch (E) Mark Haughwout, Dep Ch (S) Ron Stafford, Dep Ch (W) Rick Eades, Webmaster/ME Bill Cobb, AZ Dave Lorenz, CA (N) Vickie Lamoureux, CA (Sierra)-Nevada Bill Luedeke, CA (S) Scott McClintock, CO-UT Kent Argow, NH Chris Haartz, NJ co Bob Wolff, NM Mark Gutzman, NY Laurie Rankin, OR Howard Verschoor, PA Daniel Bubnis, VT Peter Hayes, WA (E) Rod Fosback, SHPO Liaison Kyle Stetler.

The 2017 election results from Elections Officer Rob Hoeye were announced: W Deputy Chair (write-in) - Samsara Duffey, Southern Deputy Chair – Ron Stafford, Historian - Bob Spear, and Secretary - Ray Grimes.

Following a short Chairman of the Board report, Chairman Argow presented the Executive Committee actions for the past year:

- 1-Mike Finch stepped down as Southern Deputy Chair, Ron Stafford stepped down as Historian to be appointed as Southern Deputy Chair, and Bob Spear was appointed as Historian.
- 2-SC/GA reached the 10 member threshold to become a chapter; area rep Mike Finch was appointed as chapter director.
- 3-The Southern California and California South Coast chapters were re-combined with Scott McClintock as director
- 4-Daniel Bubnis was appointed as PA director to replace Steve Kidd, who stepped down.

5-Appointment of Kyle Stetler as FFLA SHPO liaison

All actions were confirmed.

Treasurer-Membership Report

Treasurer Weber had emailed out the preliminary Treasurer/Membership Report prior to the meeting; all chapters and the national account are in good financial health. Membership showed an overall increase of 86 members. When the Treasurer Report is finalized, the combined report will be posted on the FFLA web page.

Account	1/1/16		Membership 12/31/16		2016 change			+/-
	Paid	Comp	Paid	Comp	New	Drop	Tx**	
Arkansas	11	0	11	0	1	-1		0
Arizona	24	0	23	0	2	-3		-1
CA-Sierra/NV	45	0	41	0	4	-8	0	-4
CA-North	31	0	28	0	1	-2	-2	-3
CA-Pacific	8	0	21	0	12	0	1	13
CA-South	131	0	137	0	21	-15		6
Colorado	36	0	41	0	9	-4	0	5
Florida	11	1	13	3	3	-1		2
Georgia-South Carolina			16		6	0	10	16
ID-North/MT	157	53	161	53	13	-9	0	4
ID-South	17	1	17	2	3	-3		0
Indiana	5	0	5	0				0
Kentucky	6	0	7	0	1	0		1
Louisiana	5	0	2	1		-3		-3
MA (S.NE)	17	2	16	2	1	-2		-1
Maryland	1	0	1	0				0
Maine	21	2	27	2	8	-2		6
Minnesota	26	1	29	1	6	-3		3
New Hampshire	18	2	19	2	2	0	-1	1
New Jersey	25	1	29	1	6	-2		4
New Mexico	11	0	13	0	3	0	-1	2
New York	41	1	52	1	12	-1		11
North Carolina	22	7	26	7	6	-2		4
Ohio	9	0	9	0	1	-1		0
Oregon	99	0	107	0	14	-6		8
Pennsylvania	15	0	20	0	5	0		5
S.E. US	25	2	26	0	10	-1	-8	1
Tennessee	6	0	8	1	3	-1		2
Virginia	13	0	15	0	4	-1	-1	2
Vermont	10	5	10	5				0
WA-Eastern	56	24	55	24	2	-5	2	-1
WA-Western	73	7	77	10	9	-5		4
Wyoming	15	0	15	0	1	-1		0
National	19	55	18	57	0	-1		-1
Total	1009	164	1095	172	169	-83	0	86
	*	1173	*	1267				(paid members)
	* Includes overdue, but not dropped							
	** Includes chapter splits, membership transfers.							

2017 Budget

Treasurer Weber had emailed out the proposed 2017 Budget. After a line by line review, Dave Lorenz moved, seconded by Mike Finch, to accept the proposed budget; the motion was approved.

2017 FFLA Budget			
	Proposed	Approved 1/14/2017	
<i>Income</i>			
Balance Forward	\$10,723.60	\$10,723.60	
Dues	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00	
Donations	\$500.00	\$500.00	
Chapter Grants/Donations (Pass-Through)	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
Merchandise Sales	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	
Interest	\$15.00	\$15.00	
Total	\$37,238.60		\$37,238.60
<i>Expenses</i>			
	-	-	
Publication	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00	
Chapter Distributions	-\$2,000.00	-\$2,000.00	
Brochures	-\$3,000.00	-\$3,000.00	
Restoration Grants	-\$2,500.00	-\$2,500.00	
Emergency Stabilization Grants	-\$300.00	-\$300.00	
	-	-	
Chapter Grants/Donations (Pass-Through)	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
Insurance	-\$2,000.00	-\$2,000.00	
Merchandise Purchase	-\$1,500.00	-\$1,500.00	
Operations	-\$1,000.00	-\$1,000.00	
History/Archive/Preservation Fund	-\$1,000.00	-\$1,000.00	
Website Upgrade	-\$500.00	-\$500.00	
	-	-	
Total	\$36,300.00		-\$36,300.00
Year-end Balance	\$938.60		\$938.60

Magazine

Editor Weber discussed the magazine; after only getting 3 issues out in 2015, he had hoped to catch up with 5 issues in 2016, but only got 4, so will continue to try for 5 in 2017. Chairman Argow noted that the current 24 pages could go up 28-32 without much cost difference, but Weber noted that he did not have the time to add additional pages. Currently, 1250 copies of each issue are being produced. No real changes are planned, but he is open to suggestions.

Webmaster

Webmaster Bill Cobb advised that the web site saw 2% growth from the previous year. In 2015 most of our hits were coming from forestry, hiking and backpacking sites; this past year we saw it coming from facebook and social media sites. Bill reminded everyone to get their chapter reports in to him.

Answerman

Answerman Howard Verschoor advised that last year he had over 100 inquiries; many were from overseas looking how to get a job as a lookout.

Committee Reports

SHPO

Kyle Stetler was just appointed FFLA SHPO liaison; he is currently getting a list of the SHPO officers for each state.

Communications

Currently we do not have a committee together for communications; Weber suggested that it should be included with Social Media.

Facebook/Social Media

Kyle Stetler (one of the FFLA Facebook page administrators) suggested that the facebook page should have more original content as well as a link to the FFLA membership page. Kent Argow advised that another social media site, Pinterest, has 120,000,000 visits per month and there is a page for fire towers/lookouts on the site. With a link, people that look at that page could look at the FFLA website and become a FFLA member. Mark Gutzman asked about making a webpage for each state. A Social Media committee was formed; members are Kyle Stetler, Sam Duffey, Rick Eades, Kent Argow, Bill Cobb, and Nick Weber.

Director Reports

Each director present or on the call gave a brief report on their chapter/area activity; full reports can be found on the FFLA web site.

Old Business

There was discussion about what is going on with Steve Cummings' research materials after it was moved from his house to the Pennsylvania Forest Heritage Association facilities. New PA Director Dan Bubnis is a member of the association and plans to make a visit there this spring.

FFLA Brochures – Argow and Weber are going to make it a priority to produce a replacement for the tri-fold brochure, it will be a double sided card of the same length and width as the folded brochure.

New Business

Vickie Lamoureux gave an update on this year's Western Conference to be held in the Chester, California area; she is getting close to finalizing the September dates. She is also working on the list of speakers. In addition to the silent auction, there are plans for a raffle of an Osborne Firefinder.

Chairman Argow advised that Dave Quam (MN) has offered to produce an FFLA membership recruitment Youtube video. The Social Media committee was assigned the task of developing the script and working with Dave.

Bonnie and Tammy McLeod have been scanning and digitizing Ray Kresek's research work; Weber mentioned the History Archive budget item that could be used for projects like this, or potentially for preserving Steve Cummings' material.

The last item of business was the physical location for the 2018 FFLA Board Meeting conference call during MLK weekend next January; the Alexandria, Louisiana area has been tentatively selected.

The FFLA Board meeting conference call was adjourned at 1254.